

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 9-12, and amend the claims as follows:

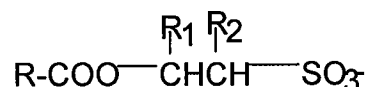
1. – 8. Cancelled.

9. – 12. Cancelled.

13. – 14. Cancelled.

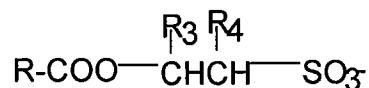
15. (Currently Amended) An ester anion mixture having surfactant properties useful in formulating personal care cleansing products comprising:

a) a first ester anion having the structure:



and

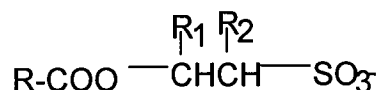
b) a different second ester anion having the structure:



in which R is in each occurrence a hydrocarbon group having between about 4 and about 25 carbon atoms, including straight-chain, branched, saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbon groups; wherein ~~one of R₁ and R₂ is an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of: C₁ to C₆ alkyl, and the remaining group R₁ or R₂ which is not C₄ to C₆ alkyl is hydrogen; one of R₃ and R₄ is an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of: C₁ to C₆ alkyl, and the remaining group R₃ or R₄ which is not C₄ to C₆ alkyl is hydrogen.~~

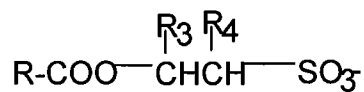
16. (Original) An ester anion mixture having surfactant properties useful in formulating cleansing products which comprises:

a) a first ester anion having the structure:



and

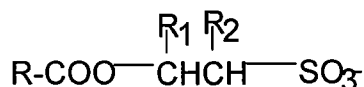
b) a different second ester anion having the structure:



in which R is any hydrocarbon group having between about 4 and about 25 carbon atoms, including straight-chain, branched, saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbon groups; R₁ is independently selected from the group consisting of: methyl and ethyl; R₂ is hydrogen; R₃ is hydrogen; and R₄ is independently selected from the group consisting of: methyl and ethyl.

17. (Currently Amended) A composition of matter useful as a concentrate from which cleansing products may be prepared comprising:

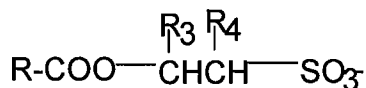
a) a first ester anion of an alkylisethionic acid according to the formula:



wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having between about 4 and 25 carbon atoms, including straight-chain, branched, saturated, and unsaturated hydrocarbon groups; R₁ and R₂ may each independently be hydrogen or is an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of: C₁ to C₆ alkyl subject to the proviso that both R₁ and R₂ are not simultaneously is hydrogen; and

b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of: water, a surfactant and optional ingredient used in preparing the cleansing product; and

c) a different second ester anion having the structure:

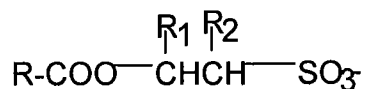


in which R is in each occurrence a hydrocarbon group having between about 4 and about 25 carbon atoms, including straight-chain, branched, saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbon groups; ~~one of R₃ and R₄ is an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of: C₁ to C₆ alkyl, and the remaining group R₃ or R₄ which is not C₄ to C₆ alkyl is hydrogen.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A composition of matter from which personal care cleansing products may be prepared which comprises:

a) any amount between 99.50 % and 0.25 % of a first component which comprises

a first ester anion of an alkylisethionic acid according to the formula :

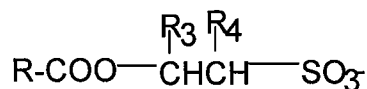


in which R is any hydrocarbon group having between about 4 and about 25 carbon atoms, including straight-chain, branched, saturated, and unsaturated hydrocarbon groups; ~~R₁ and R₂ may each independently be hydrogen or is~~ an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of: C₁ to C₆ alkyl, ~~subject to the proviso that both R₁ and R₂ are not simultaneously is~~ hydrogen; and

b) any amount between 99.75% and 0.50% of a second component comprising one or more members selected from the group consisting of: fatty acids, alkyl sulfates, an ethanolamine, an amine oxide, alkali carbonates, water, ethanol, isopropanol, pine

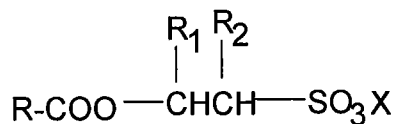
oil, sodium chloride, sodium silicate, polymers, alcohol alkoxylates, zeolites, perborate salts, alkali sulfates, enzymes, hydrotropes, dyes, fragrances, preservatives, brighteners, builders, polyacrylates, essential oils, alkali hydroxides, water-soluble branched alkylbenzene sulfonates, ether sulfates, alkylphenol alkoxylates, fatty acid amides, alpha olefin sulfonates, paraffin sulfonates, betaines, chelating agents, tallowamine ethoxylates, polyetheramine ethoxylates, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymers, alcohol ethylene oxide/propylene oxide low foam surfactants, methyl ester sulfonates, alkyl polysaccharides, N-methyl glucamides, alkylated sulfonated diphenyl oxide, and polyethylene glycol; and

c) a different second ester anion having the structure:



in which R is in each occurrence a hydrocarbon group having between about 4 and about 25 carbon atoms, including straight-chain, branched, saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbon groups; ~~one of R₃ and R₄ is an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of: C₁ to C₆ alkyl, and the remaining group R₃ or R₄ which is not C₄ to C₆ alkyl is hydrogen.~~

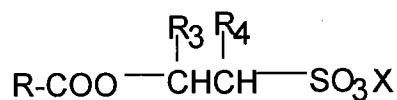
19. (Currently Amended) A personal care cleanser comprising a first acylalkylisethionate ester having the formula



wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having between 4 and 25 carbon atoms; ~~R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and is a branched or straight-chain aliphatic C₁ to C₆ alkyl group subject to the proviso that one of R₁ and R₂ is the branched or straight-chain aliphatic C₄ to C₆ alkyl group while the remaining R₁ or R₂ is hydrogen; and X is selected from the group consisting of~~

hydrogen, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, zinc, aluminum, ammonium and ammonium ions substituted with one or more organic groups; and

a different second acylalkylisethionate ester having the formula:

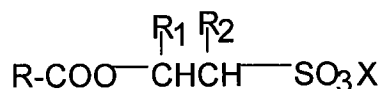


wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having between 4 and 25 carbon atoms; ~~R₃ and R₄ are each independently selected from the group consisting of~~ is hydrogen and ~~R₄ is a branched or straight-chain aliphatic C₁ to C₆ alkyl group subject to the proviso that one of R₃ and R₄ is the branched or straight-chain aliphatic C₄ to C₆ alkyl group while the remaining R₃ or R₄ is hydrogen; and X is selected from the group consisting of~~ hydrogen, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, zinc, aluminum, ammonium and ammonium ions substituted with one or more organic groups.

20. (Original) The personal care cleanser of claim 19 further comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of: amphoteric surfactant; zwitterionic surfactant; anionic surfactant; nonionic surfactant; cationic surfactant; water and optional ingredient.

21. (Currently Amended) A composition of matter comprising:

(i) a first acylalkylisethionate ester having the formula:

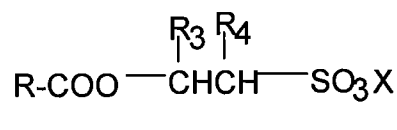


wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having between 4 and 25 carbon atoms; ~~R₁ and R₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and~~ is a branched or straight-chain aliphatic C₁ to C₆ alkyl group subject to the proviso that one of ~~R₁ and R₂ is the branched or straight-chain aliphatic C₄ to C₆ alkyl group while the~~

remaining ~~R₁ or R₂~~ is hydrogen; and X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, zinc, aluminum, ammonium and ammonium ions substituted with one or more organic groups; and

(ii) at least one other member selected from the group consisting of: amphoteric surfactant; zwitterionic surfactant; anionic surfactant; nonionic surfactant; cationic surfactant; water and optional ingredient; and

(iii) a different second acylalkylisethionate ester having the formula:



wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having between 4 and 25 carbon atoms; ~~R₃ and R₄ are each independently selected from the group consisting of~~ is hydrogen and R₄ is a branched or straight-chain aliphatic C₁ to C₆ alkyl group ~~subject to the proviso that one of R₃ and R₄ is the branched or straight chain aliphatic C₄ to C₆ alkyl group while the remaining R₃ or R₄ is hydrogen;~~ and X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, zinc, aluminum, ammonium and ammonium ions substituted with one or more organic groups.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition of matter of claim 21 wherein the first acylalkylisethionate ester is present in an amount ranging between about 1% by weight to about 60% by weight.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition of matter of claim 21 wherein the composition of matter comprises a shampoo, a baby shampoo, a baby wipe, a children wipe, a make-up remover tissue, a showergel, a foam bath, a liquid soap, a soap bar, a syndet bar, or an acne wash.

Please add the following new claims:

24. (New) The composition according to claim 15 wherein the C₁ to C₆ alkyl group on the first anion is the same as the C₁ to C₆ alkyl group on the second anion.
25. (New) The composition according to claim 17 wherein the C₁ to C₆ alkyl group on the first anion is the same as the C₁ to C₆ alkyl group on the second anion.
26. (New) The composition according to claim 17 wherein water is present in an amount between about 20% and about 90 % by weight based on the total weight of the composition.
27. (New) The composition according to claim 17 wherein the C₁ to C₆ alkyl group on the first anion and the second anion is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl.